



TUFOIC Newsletter

October 1996

Edition 79

PO Box 174, South Hobart, Tasmania, 7004. Australia.

The UFO Scene

Since our last Newsletter there has been something for everyone, sightings, films, TV shows, radio interviews, and coverage in the press. We doubt that the phenomena has ever before had such constant exposure to the public. We should be inundated with calls according to the skeptics, but this is not the case. The flap of reports earlier in the year occurred mostly prior to the media coverage. However, the Centre's common sense approach to the phenomena over the years has paid some dividends with a number of responsible articles in the Tasmanian press, especially the Hobart Mercury's coverage of the Midland Highway sighting on June 10th. The article by Simon Bevilacqua gave a factual story of the sighting backed up by a well compiled diagram to illustrate the reported UFO.

On the wider scene we have received information via Keith Basterfield's "Australian UFO Reports", INUFOR, and UFO Research NSW Newsletters. These publications indicate that sightings around the country have been on the increase, especially in New South Wales. A flap of large proportions has occurred

around Gosford and Northern New South Wales. Recently there was TV and a Women's Magazine coverage of an abduction near Casino. This was just one of many incidents in that area that were not mentioned in the media. INUFOR has been investigating reports in the Gosford area dating from late 1995. They have held public meetings which have had capacity audiences. There will be a book published on the sightings titled "The Gosford Files".

Two Conferences will have been held by the time our Newsletter goes to print, both in Brisbane, one by UFO Research QLD, the other by Queensland's MUFON representative the Rev Glennys Mackay. Let's hope we will receive some feed back on the material presented.

"The OZ Files" by Bill Chalker, is an excellent book on the history of the UFO phenomena in Australia; everything you need to know about Australian UFO sightings, it's a must for anyone who wants to research the subject.

Anyone who can access the Internet will be up to date with the world scene, sightings

reported from Canada, USA, England. Is this due to increase in reports or is it just that the material is now more accessible? Just to top off all this information we have strange happenings in Brazil. Following UFO reports near the city of Varginha aliens were noticed some hours later in a city park. The area was sealed off by the Police and a number of live and dead aliens were alleged to have been captured by the militia. Subsequently, the Brazilian military have denied that the events reported in the press occurred, whilst the residents of Varginha formed a research group to study the UFO sightings.

Locally the Centre welcomes new Executive members Matt and Mike Whayman, Matt will be involved with Liaison matters whilst Mike has been investigating recent sightings. Also Ray Thomas has taken on the task of sorting out material collected by the Centre over the years, which is made up of books and publications. Ray has commenced a catalogue of the TUFOIC library. A separate page of information on the library is included with this Newsletter.

Recent Reports

The run of cases earlier in the year has eased but the Centre is still following up on a number of more recent sightings.

June 11th 20.30. Bell Bay. Single witness reports a dull grey domed top object low over buildings. Lights appear beneath the object as it curves towards the witness's location. The witness hurried inside and did not view the object again.

July 20th 21.00. Hobart Airport. A trainee pilot reports that a bright white light seemed to be behind the aircraft no matter which way they were heading. It was seen by a group of witnesses from the ground later on.

August 23rd 20.30. Campbell Town. Two witnesses were travelling north on the Midland Highway just south of Campbell Town. They initially noticed a silver/grey cigar shape low to the west of the road. It then crossed the road ahead of their motor vehicle and took up a position over paddocks east of the highway. The witnesses drove past the object and did not see it again.

September 10th 22.30. Devonport to Launceston. The witness in our next case has often travelled late at night during the course of her work commitments. Initially travelling from Port Sorell towards Devonport she noticed a traffic green light out to the north west, which she took it to be an approaching aircraft. However, to her surprise the light appeared ahead as she travelled south on the Bass Highway. Later the light dived out of sight behind some road side trees. A second time she was surprised to see the light reappear once more over the road ahead. On the run from Deloraine to Launceston the light was at times to the south and north of the highway. Arriving home she could see it in the southern sky, by now it was late so the witness did not watch any longer.

September 18th 23.25. Burnie. Witness was travelling home on Bass Highway on a rainy night when a set of 5 large bright orange lights were noticed out over the sea alongside the highway. The lights did not appear to be moving and were only seen briefly by the witness, who felt that they were low and close just out over the sea. The witness looked away at the road and when she looked back there was no sign of any lights.

September 24th 22.15. Burnie. Following an item in the Burnie Advocate the Centre contacted the witness for details of an erratic light. Upon going out to search the sky for satellites the witness almost at once saw a flashing orange/yellow light low to the south. The light then shot up to the 60 degree elevation before falling back to its original location. The light kept up these manoeuvres for some 30 seconds, then to complete the show it shot off to the north west and was out of sight in about 4 to 5 seconds.

Heard of a sighting? Tell the centre about it.
Telephone Keith on 03 62236009, or write to PO Box 174, South Hobart, 7004.

Ronald Francis Jolly 18/2/1929 - 9/11/1996

It is with deep regret that we have to announce that Ron Jolly, TUFOIC president, died on the 9th of November. Ron served TUFOIC for 17 years. He served as President from 1981 until stepping down due to ill health earlier this year.

Ron will be remembered for his dedication to finding the truth behind the UFO mystery and his always friendly manner. His company will be sadly missed by all of the committee and members. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Mary and children.

.... 'And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free...'

Northern Flap

The year 1996 has seen the return of the UFO sighting to Tasmania in numbers similar to the UFO Age of the 1970s. Sightings showed signs of an increase in the later half of 1995 before peaking in the Tamar Valley about May/June, since then reports have tailed off although the Centre still has a number of cases to finalise (see Recent Reports). Probably the reports of note were the series of cases from Swan Point followed by the daylight cylinder sightings which culminated with the Midland Highway event on June 10th.

The first daylight report came on May 22nd about 3.30pm, when a motorist on the West Tamar Highway near Brady's Lookout noticed an upright vapour-like trail to the north towards the George Town area. The trail changed into an upright bronze coloured cigar shape which somehow just disappeared in front of the witness's eyes. This type of disappearance was a feature in a number of cases.

The next report was just before 7am on May 24th, when a West Launceston witness preparing to go to work noticed what looked to be a strange pink saucer shaped cloud to the east. The witness pointed out the cloud to her husband, both were amazed to see it suddenly move off to the east disappearing over the distant hills.

Mrs W travelling from Hadspen to Launceston, was next to spot the daytime object. She and her husband were heading east on the Bass Highway at 11.50am when they spotted a silvery cylindrical object. It was a long thing with no wings or tail fin. It was to the south of the highway and seemed to be going nowhere. A tree branch obscured the cylinder for a second and Mrs W was surprised to find the object was no longer in view.

A sighting from Launceston occurred on May 29th about 1pm. This time a vertical misty type cloud was seen against the clear blue sky, it looked to form into a vertical upright cylinder which seemed to have a long hole. The witness and a friend who had observed the object looked away for a second only to find the object had disappeared in that brief time.

One of the major reports during the flap was the sighting from the Midland Highway on June 10th at about 2pm on a bright afternoon with a clear blue sky. The UFO sighting was covered in depth by the Hobart Mercury on Sunday, September 1st. Together with an account of the event there was an excellent graphic panel of the object seen by the witnesses.

A and S were heading north just past Symmons Plains when they saw a bright white horseshoe shape in the sky ahead. The bright shape shot in front of the car from east to west finishing up on A's side of the car. Then it appeared to come at the car and took a position some 500 meters ahead, changing its appearance to a solid bright cylinder shape.

S accelerated the car as it was now only some 500 meters ahead and looked as if it was going to land in the roadside paddock. The shape at this stage could be seen against the background of the trees ahead and to the right of the road.

The object suddenly increased elevation and moved away to the distant east, and before they reached Perth, the object had been lost from view. A and S went at once to the nearby Airport but found no one who could help with their strange encounter.

Continuing on to Launceston they were surprised to spot the thin cylinder shape in the sky ahead, this time it changed to more of a cigar shape. S managed to take a photograph from the car but it is only a blurry picture probably due to the movement of the car. Eventually the object was lost into the north eastern sky

Other News

UFO Afrinews No 13, February 1996

Cloud-like object, 7.30am. April 10, 1995. Near Merweville, South Africa. Braam M, age 11 was on his way to school with his mother and two younger sisters when they saw a strange object on a side road. It looked like a cloud, but was stationary. Then it moved north, although the prevailing wind was to the west, and disappeared behind some clouds. The object was approximately the size of a large truck.

UFO Buzzes Beach in Northern New Zealand

At 9pm on Saturday, August 10, 1996, a glowing green UFO appeared over a beach just up from Wainui Beach in Gisbourne, North Island, New Zealand. Damon W, and his girlfriend, Frances P. were lounging in the backyard on Wairere Road, just up from the beach.

"The sky was overcast," Damon recalled, "so we couldn't see any stars." Damon thought he "saw a meteorite streak across the sky from the southeast to northwest and called France's attention to it. She looked and saw it just as it disappeared over the tops of some nearby trees. Then suddenly it reappeared and flew in a zigzag pattern across the sky" until it turned "and dropped toward some low hills by the sea."

"We realised it could not be a meteor because it was below the clouds. It was diamond or a rhombus shape about the size of a five cent New Zealand piece and it was surrounded by a fuzzy green glow. It then shot straight up and down and that was the last we saw of it." - Credit: UFO Roundup.

Radio Energy FM 88

A new local radio station, Radio Energy FM is on the air with nightly with occasional snippets of UFO topics and discussions as a main feature point of the station. The station does not offer an opinion as to the truth and validity of UFOs, however, simply offers the information to listeners. They will take talk-back on the UFO subject. Listeners can tune in every night from 8pm, particularly on Tuesdays and Sundays with discussions on UFO's. The Station Manager, Matt Whayman is on the TUFOIC Executive. Phone: 62254189

Skywatch

The planet **Jupiter** still dominates the night sky. Looking West after sunset about 30 degrees high. Jupiter is edging toward the horizon each night, and will disappear into the twilight at the end of December.

Comet **Hale-Bopp** is now winding its way around the back of the sun, and will not reappear to us in the Southern hemisphere until May next year, when, if all goes to plan it should be quite a sight from a dark location. Trying to estimate a comets brightness is a risky business at the best of times, and often leads to disappointment, but all current indications are that this comet will be as good as Hyakutake was during March of this year.

Saturn is currently roughly 50 degrees up in the Northern sky after sunset and is not difficult to find in that part of the sky. Saturn is a yellowish colour and shines a steady light, as do the other planets, unlike the stars that appear to twinkle. The distance, apparent size and our atmosphere all work together to produce the twinkling effect. The planets being much closer and apparently larger only have our atmosphere to tend with, so the twinkling effect is much less apparent.

Mars rises in the eastern sky around 2.30 AM and does not get very much above the horizon when the morning twilight takes hold.

Stop Press

TUFOIC received a spate of calls early in November, and although many of these reports have been explained as Fireballs, we have also received a number of very interesting reports. All of these cases are under investigation as we go to press, more details in the Annual Report 1997.

We have also received a number of reports of "Slime" being found on properties at Kempton, George Town, Launceston, Kempton again, and Penguin, during the month. As we go to press we have obtained a sample of the substance found at

Kempton (2nd report). Although no UFO activity is associated with any of these reports, we will have the sample analysed due to the interest aroused by the reports, and to put the media at rest. We received 3 calls from the BBC in London (Various departments), from Newspapers around the country, and local Tasmanian newspapers and radio stations wanting interviews and comments regarding these reports. It would seem that most of them are more interested in *Slime* than genuine UFO reports.

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TUFOIC

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TASMANIAN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT INVESTIGATION CENTRE

TUFOIC on the Internet

We now have a Home page on the World Wide Web



The URL address is:

<http://server.netspace.net.au/~tufoic/>

The site currently contains:

- The TUFOIC Newsletter.
- News updates, such as an account of last years "*Slime*" reports.
- Information on Membership and TUFOIC Publications.
- There are also links to other interesting UFO sites on the Net.

The web site is continually being developed and will eventually contain details on all good Tasmanian sightings. We hope to keep the site up to date with the latest Tasmanian sightings and news.

Snails go Cosmic

By SIMON BEVILACOUA

The bizarre "cosmic slime" found in Tasmania this year was most likely snail eggs, says the state's UFO investigation unit. The slime, found at Kempton and in the North-West of the state two months ago, was rumoured to have been linked to a number of UFO sightings in the regions. The Tasmanian UFO investigation centre sent a number of slime samples from different locations for laboratory analysis.

Results returned last week revealed one sample to be the eggs of some form of mollusc and other samples to be a jelly-like substance found in potting mix or fertiliser. UFO investigation centre spokesman Keith Roberts said the sample taken from near a Kempton service station, which turned out to be mollusc eggs, sparked a series of slime reports across the state.

"Most of these things have reasonable explanations," Mr Roberts said A national UFO report body is still waiting on its slime analysis.

The UFO Information Hotline, a national phone operation which charges \$3 a minute to receive reports, sent slime samples to laboratories in Perth and Melbourne. Hotline spokesman Ross Dowe said he believed the slime to most likely be man-made and to have been picked up and deposited by a storm Mr Dowe said the news of Tasmanian cosmic slime had sparked a series of slime reports nationwide. "We expect to get results of the analysis back before Christmas" Mr Dowe said.

Mercury Newspaper (Sunday Tasmanian) - Hobart - 22/Dec/1996

Sighting reports Phoned directly to TUFOIC are charged at the local call rate only.

This may not be the case when calling other UFO reporting services.

TUFOIC is a non profit organisation and is in no way connected with any other UFO organisation.